

CLAIMS

1. A data communication network comprising at least two cache servers to which users are connected, **characterized by a** forecast server connected to said at least two cache servers for issuing a forecast on which data in said at least two cache server that should be replaced with other data in order to increase the hit rate in said at least two cache servers.

2. A network according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the forecast server periodically is updated on which data that currently is stored in said at least two cache server.

3. A network according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the forecast server comprises means for ordering one particular cache server of said at least two cache servers to pre-fetch data having a higher probability of being requested than the data that is currently stored in that particular cache server.

4. A network according to any of claims 1 - 3, **characterized in** that the forecast server is connected to a group of cache servers, which it controls via a control protocol.

5. A network according to any of claims 1 - 4, **characterized in** that the forecast server has means for establishing a probability function for an address based on what other addresses where demanded a time period before and after the address was demanded.

6. A network according to any of claims 1 - 5, **characterized in** that the forecast server is co-located with one of said at least two cache servers.

7. A network according to any of claims 1 - 6, **characterized in** that several forecast servers are connected to each other.

8. A network according to claim 7, **characterized in** that the forecast servers are arranged to exchange information on which data that is stored in the cache servers to which the forecast servers are connected.

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9. A network according to claim 7 or 8, **characterized** in that one of the forecast servers is arranged to control the others.

10. A method of pre-fetching data in a network comprising a plurality of cache servers each connected to a common forecast server, and where the forecast server is arranged to, via a protocol keep a record of which data that is stored in the different servers, **characterized** in that the forecast server issues a forecast on which data in the plurality of cache server that should be replaced with other data in order to increase the hit rate for the plurality of cache servers.

11. A method according to claim 10, **characterized** in that the plurality of cache servers periodically is updates the forecast server on which data that currently is stored in the plurality of cache server.

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, **characterized** in that the forecast server orders one particular cache server of the plurality of cache server to pre-fetch data having a higher probability of being requested than the data that is currently stored in that particular cache server.

13. A method according to any of claims 10 - 12, **characterized** in that the forecast is made based on probability function for an address, which in turn is based on what other addresses where demanded a time period before and after the address was demanded.

14. A method according to any of claims 10 - 12, when the network comprises several forecast servers to which different cache servers or groups of cache servers are connected, **characterized** in that the forecast servers can exchange information on which data that is stored in the different cache servers or groups of cache servers.

15. A method according to claim 14, **characterized** in that one of the several servers is arranged to control the others.

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